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Wisconsin Homeland Security Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2006

Wisconsin Preparedness Plans in place

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National Guard Reaction Force continues its mission

As Governor, one of the most important jobs I have is protecting our communities and keeping Wisconsin citizens safe. It is a responsibility that I don't take lightly.

Over the past year, I have asked Major General Al Wilkening to review Wisconsin's emergency response plans and to make appropriate improvements. Improvements have been made at the state and local level — coordination and communication are key — so that people in Wisconsin can be sure that the state is prepared for any disaster.

State and local emergency responders have been updating their response plans in areas such as mass evacuation; responding to special needs populations; and coordination between federal, state, local, private and public agencies.

These efforts are paying off. During my trip to Ellison Bay in Door County following the gas explosion that killed two people in July, I saw first-hand how local, state and federal law enforcement and emergency responders were working together. These top-notch professionals were working together to assess and manage this situation and did a great job of ensuring the safety of everyone in the Ellison Bay community.

Here in Madison, I was pleased that the state legislature approved the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, otherwise known as MABAS legislation this past spring. This will help improve mutual aid for our firefighters, emergency medical services and other emergency responders during a large scale incident that will require additional



Governor Jim Doyle talks with local residents in Door County. Public input and collaboration between state and local governments have been critical to establishing successful emergency preparedness plans.

departments.

We are making great improvements to our preparedness plans, but when nature strikes there are always costs involved. Last year, I was disappointed when the Federal Emergency Management Agency denied Wisconsin federal disaster assistance following the tornadoes that devastated the Stoughton and Viola areas. That's why we have set up the new State Disaster Fund to help communities impacted by major natural disasters recover some of their costs associated with the emergency response and debris removal.

Finally, I encourage all Wisconsin citizens to develop a family emergency response plan and to put together a disaster supply kit. Whether it is a Wisconsin winter storm, tornado, chemical spill or act of terrorism, we all need to be prepared so we can keep our families safe in any type of emergency. ■



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From the Chair

It is hard to believe that it has been five years since terrorists attacked this nation and changed our lives forever. It certainly changed how those of us who serve in the emergency preparedness and response community perform our jobs. We no longer focus on just natural disasters but now must focus our efforts and energy to deal with the threat of terrorism.

As Homeland Security Advisor for Wisconsin, I am pleased to report that we are better prepared and more engaged in this vital business than we certainly were on September 11, 2001. In the last five years, Wisconsin received more than \$100 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to train and equip our first responders. This past summer, the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) was notified that the state's Fiscal Year award is for \$24.4 million. OJA has been working with our local and federal partners to make certain that our emergency responders have appropriate personal protection equipment, detection and decontamination gear, and other response capability to perform the job that is required during an emergency or disaster.

It is not only the equipping of our responders but, equally important, the training of our responders. In the last five years, more than



Albert H. Wilkening

**Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening
Homeland Security Advisor**

30,000 students have participated in more than 2,000 emergency management training events throughout the state. In addition, more than 330 exercises have been conducted at the local level.

We also continue to work with our public health partners and support their mission to protect our citizens from a bioterrorism attack or an outbreak of the Avian Flu. We are united in the realization that the Homeland Security Team must play a critical role to ensure our citizens remain both safe and informed, whatever the threat.

Finally, we continue to expand our partnerships with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; the Department of Natural Resources; the private sector; and numerous agencies at the local, state and federal level. The lessons learned from the events of 911 and from the effects of Hurricane Katrina demand that we all must cooperate, coordinate, collaborate and communicate, across the full spectrum of emergency planning and response, to succeed in this critical mission in the months and years ahead. ■

First responders, students and educators benefit from specialized training

In 2005, the state Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) provided equipment and specialized training to help local agencies and specialized units form effective regional task forces able to respond to statewide emergencies.

The regional response team approach combines assets and personnel from several different communities to make up each team. Four different teams have been identified from regions across the state: Task Force 1 — Milwaukee, Waukesha; Task Force 2 — Madison, Janesville, Beloit, La Crosse; Task Force 3 — Green Bay, Appleton, Neenah-Menasha, Oshkosh; and Task Force 4 — Eau Claire, Rhinelander, Superior.

Last year's training and equipment was allocated to the Maritime Program and dive teams, while 2006 Homeland Security funds are targeted for SWAT and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team training. Each team will receive highly specialized courses in Weapons of Mass Destruction environment training, held at Volk Field, in addition to technician level training for ropes, confined space rescue, and trench and structure collapse. Each of these courses strategically builds on previously offered training that is unique to each specialized team. ■

Specialized training of rescue personnel, such as rope rescues, allow for local departments to form regional task forces and respond to emergencies across the state. Training will be delivered through the Wisconsin Technical College System, with advanced technician training taking place at the REACT Center at Volk Field.



New state agency fights identity theft

Identity theft is the fastest-growing crime in the nation. The Federal Trade Commission estimates that 10 million Americans are the victims of some type of identity theft each year. In Wisconsin, estimates are that identity theft strikes more than 100,000 residents each year and costs consumers and businesses more than \$570 million each year.

Identity theft has become the crime of choice for many criminals because it can be accomplished fairly easily from the comfort of one's own home, it can net the thief thousands of dollars a day, and even if caught, the perpetrators seldom face

significant penalties.

Because of the harm that identity theft is inflicting on hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin residents and businesses, Governor Jim Doyle determined that a more focused and proactive approach to the problem was needed, so in April 2006 he created the Wisconsin Office of Privacy Protection (OPP). OPP is a joint effort of the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The Wisconsin OPP is only the second of its kind in the nation.

OPP educates the public about how to

protect their personal information, assist individuals who are victims of identity theft or identity fraud, investigate and assist in the prosecution of identity theft and other violations of privacy laws.

Wisconsin OPP has been meeting with other state agencies in an effort to mobilize resources in the fight against identity theft. It has also been working with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to coordinate a unified effort to investigate and successfully prosecute identity thieves.

For more information, contact the Wisconsin OPP at www.privacy.wi.gov. ■

Intelligence Fusion Center opens

The tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001, forced law enforcement and emergency services across the country to evaluate shortcomings in intelligence and information sharing

on all levels. In response to the ever increasing need for timely sharing of critical intelligence, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has sponsored the

establishment of Intelligence Fusion Centers in every state.

The Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center (WSIC) opened in March 2006. It is led by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The WSIC operates as an “All Crimes, All Hazards, All Events” intelligence center. Although counter-terrorism is the primary concern of the WSIC, we know that terrorists exploit every opportunity to advance their cause. The art of information collection is identifying the important aspects and making the associations that lead to actionable intelligence. And that information comes from many sources that encompass all aspects of legitimate, illegitimate and criminal activity.

The greater Milwaukee area was designated by the Department of Homeland Security as an “Urban Area Security Initiative” (UASI) region. This means that due to a range of security risks, such as population, major

port with international access, close proximity to a nuclear facility, etc., they receive extra funds to deal with their unique concerns. One of the components of a UASI is the establishment of a Terrorism Early Warning (TEW) group, which is essentially an intelligence operation within the UASI.

In order to prevent duplication of efforts, it was decided that the WSIC would establish a satellite office within the TEW to handle their intelligence requirements. Connecting by fiber optic, the TEW will have the same intelligence tools available as those at the WSIC.

Information gathering, intelligence dissemination and cohesive exchanges between agencies are the ultimate goal for any intelligence fusion center operation. The WSIC will continue to strive towards achieving these goals while answering the needs and desires of the emergency service communities and the private sector we serve. ■



Hi-tech centralized communications and intelligence centers improve Wisconsin's ability to prevent and respond to all crimes, hazards and events. Collaboration between multiple agencies and levels of government was again critical to the successful establishment of the Fusion Center.

Wisconsin Responding to Emergencies and Disasters with Youth (READY) Program

The Office of Justice Assistance and Wisconsin Citizen Corps' READY (Responding to Emergencies and Disasters with Youth) initiative prepares middle and high school students for emergency situations through four annual summer camps held at Volk Field, Camp Douglas. In the event of a local emergency or disaster that affects their school or community, students who have participated in a READY camp will be able to respond to pressing needs until additional help arrives — saving lives and protecting property.

The four-day camps teach safety and injury prevention, first aid, and CPR and automatic external defibrillator training, plus leadership skills, career development, and a

strong anti-drug message. By combining these subjects, the students will come away with skills that can help them identify and reduce potential hazards, will learn about careers in emergency management and public safety, and will grow as individuals.

Most activities during the week are held on base at Volk Field. National Guard personnel from Wisconsin's Department of Military Affairs act as instructors for a low ropes and leadership development course. There are also classroom instruction and hands-on learning opportunities, including a mock disaster which incorporates all the skills the students have learned and marks the end of a successful camp. ■

Protecting Wisconsin's Food Products

To help ensure our food supply remains safe, members of the Wisconsin AgroSecurity Working Group participated in tours of dairy farms, feed mills and meat packing plants this summer to learn about the industry.

The tours provided a unique perspective for officials who were unfamiliar with the operations and product/commodity flow involved in the dairy and livestock industry. This includes production, processing, retail, warehousing and transportation of the food items. The tours also provided an opportunity to establish relationships between these government agencies and the agriculture industry.

The dairy tour included visits to a cheese packaging plant in Plymouth, a cheese manufacturer in Waupun and a dairy in Brandon. The livestock tour included a packing plant in Green Bay, a calf feeding operation in De Pere, a cattle market in Reedsville and a feed mill in Valders.

FBI Milwaukee, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Agro-Security Resource Network, Wisconsin Beef Council, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and private industry, organized the tours. John Freitag of the Wisconsin Beef Council stated, "I'm delighted that the group contacted me to arrange the livestock visits. The communication and education between the group and the private industry were mutually beneficial to both sides."

The Wisconsin AgroSecurity Working Group holds meetings semiannually and is comprised of representatives from agencies with an interest in agriculture and food security. Upcoming projects of the group include tabletop exercises and visits to other segments of the agricultural sector. ■



Protecting Wisconsin's agriculture and livestock includes defending against acts of terrorism as well as biological threats and pandemics.

Am I NIMS Compliant?

Is your organization compliant with NIMS — the National Incident Management System?

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and the Office of Justice Assistance have convened a NIMS Advisory Group to help state agencies and local and tribal jurisdictions achieve NIMS compliance.

NIMS was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together better on natural disasters and emergencies. NIMS provides for a unified approach to incident management, with standard command and management structures, and emphasizes preparedness, mutual aid and resource management.

The advisory group includes representatives from local law enforcement, Fire and EMS services; state agencies; tribal governments; emergency management; and the Wisconsin Technical College System. It has focused on three target areas: outreach, compliance and data collection.

Outreach efforts include NIMS information sessions for local units of government, a state NIMS website, and an e-mail site for NIMS-related questions.

The state will achieve compliance through self-certification in FY2006.

A compliance data form was developed to allow the state to gather information about the degree of NIMS compliance that has been achieved at the local level.

In addition, WEM is developing a cadre of Incident Command System (ICS) instructors to teach NIMS-compliant ICS courses. WEM has scheduled 17 ICS courses for the fall of 2006. For more information, go to <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>. ■

Wisconsin's Homeland Security Grant Program

Application award draws high scores from National Peer Review Panel

Wisconsin's Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) award application for federal fiscal year 06 (FFY06) ranked in the top 25% of all state submissions with several of the state's investments scoring in the top 15%. The state's FFY06 HSGP award of \$24.4 million, received in May, funds five grant programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) — \$ 8,710,000
- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) — \$ 8,570,000 (includes the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, and Racine Counties)
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) — \$ 6,330,000
- Metropolitan Medical Response

System (MMRS) — \$464,660 (allocated to the cities of Milwaukee and Madison)

- Citizen Corps Program (CCP) — \$356,198

Wisconsin's plan was the product of an OJA led committee of state, tribal, local, and private sector public safety agencies. Over 120 individuals contributed to the comprehensive review of the state's capabilities and needs. Wisconsin requested a total of \$35 million in funding for the following investments:

- Establish Regional Homeland Security Public and Private Partnerships*
- Implement the State Communications Interoperability Plan*
- Protect High Risk Infrastructure

Sectors and Assets*

- Sustain and Enhance Regional Emergency Response Task Forces*
- Continue to Implement NIMS and the NRP
- Develop State a State Information and Intelligence Sharing Structure
- Develop State Emergency Management GIS
- Improve Regional EMS Mass Casualty Response Capabilities
- Sustain and Expand Citizen Corps
- Improve Mass Shelter and Evacuation Capabilities
- Expand Information Sharing through the Justice Gateway

*Considered "exceptional" (ranked in the top 15% of all submissions). ■

Protecting our coasts



Manistowoc County Sheriff's Department has a new 19-foot Boston Whaler to patrol Lake Michigan and to protect the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant. The boat was purchased with a federal homeland security grant. In addition to patrolling Lake Michigan and other bodies of water, the boat will also be used to respond to emergencies.

Photo courtesy Manistowoc County Sheriff's Department

Emergency responders hold training in Prairie du Chien

Emergency responders practiced wearing protective gear during a Weapons of Mass Destruction training hosted by the Prairie du Chien Police Department in May. The training — Texas A&M University's National Emergency Rescue and Response Center "WMD Incident Defensive Operations Course" — featured exercises in Level B protective equipment and the basics of threat assessment, hazard mitigation and threat confinement.

Photo by Michael King



National Guard Reaction Force Ready to Respond

Wisconsin's National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF) continues its mission of enhanced preparedness for state and national emergencies. Even during a time of high deployments for the Wisconsin National Guard, this 500-member force stands ready to provide support in several of the emergency support functions. NGRF missions include security, force protection, critical infrastructure protection, transportation security, and support to law enforcement in civil disturbance.

The force has been trained and ready since the fall of 2003, when all states' National Guard headquarters were directed to have rapid reaction forces able to support operations within or outside state borders. Since that time several Wisconsin units have been trained to perform this mission while others were

replaced for overseas deployments.

Currently, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, headquartered in Eau Claire, is the base unit. They recently returned from 12 months of combat duty in Iraq and have been augmented, for the NGRF, with the 32nd Military Police Company. Additional support and reinforcements come from the two flying units of the Wisconsin Air National Guard, the 115th Fighter Wing and the 128th Air Refueling Wing.

On Sept. 8, leaders from Joint Force Headquarters and the NGRF will participate in the Homeland Security Council's tabletop exercise on a pandemic bird flu scenario. The following day, parts of the NGRF will conduct a functional exercise at two locations in Wisconsin, continuing their readiness training for this mission. ■

Radio Communications Interoperability Goals Advanced

During the tragedies in Oklahoma City and at the World Trade Center, poor communication between rescue workers, command centers, and leaders in the field endangered the safety of the first responders and inhibited their ability to rescue survivors. Wisconsin's 2006 Program and Capability Enhancement Plan aims to avoid similar communication breakdowns.

The Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) is utilizing 2005 Interoperability Grants to fund selected repeaters, base stations, dispatch equipment, radios, and radio programming to meet this goal. As of July 2006, OJA has distributed 172 grants, amounting to over \$3.5 million,

to fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies. Forty one grants of over \$1 million are currently being amended, edited, or await review, and nearly \$500,000 has been distributed through the remainder of 2004 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention funding. Six additional grants totaling \$350,000 have recently been signed and distributed using a mix of funding sources. In total, OJA has appropriated nearly \$5.5 million in this grant funding period for radio interoperability.

The grants are intended to provide access by emergency responders to common mutual aid channels that will establish basic interoperability between agen-

cies during emergency response. Plans for future interoperable communications in Wisconsin have been set forth by the State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC), chaired by OJA Executive Director David Steingraber. Currently a Technical Plan to Support Statewide Interoperability, and Functional Specifications for a proposed Wisconsin Public Safety Communications System (WPSCS) have been drafted. "True interoperability will only be achieved in Wisconsin through the collective effort of all levels of government in communities throughout the state," Steingraber notes. "This technical plan is only the first step on a long road, but one that will result in a safer and more secure Wisconsin." ■

New Pet brochure available

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. That's why the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in consultation with the American Kennel Club, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, American Veterinary Medical Association and the Humane Society of the United States have unveiled a brochure to help you take steps to protect your pets during emergencies. The brochure is available to download at www.ready.gov.



Residents received information regarding Wisconsin's Citizen Corps at this year's State Fair. The Citizen Corps aims to enhance readiness for disasters by fostering a statewide spirit of volunteerism through opportunities supporting local fire, law enforcement, emergency medical and community public health efforts.

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